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19 April 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. George A. Carver, Jr.

SUBJECT : North Vietnamese Intelligence and
Security Apparatus

1. The North Vietnamese intelligence and security operations in North and South Vietnam are conducted by the Lao Dong Party through three major government organs:

- (a) The Ministry of Public Security (Bo Cong An) - the state security service responsible for internal security (including CI) and intelligence which includes foreign intelligence. The Ministry of Public Security assigns personnel abroad to serve as security officers within DRV missions and to collect intelligence. It is also responsible for detaining and interrogating POWs including American POWs captured in NVN (analogous to the KGB).
- (b) The Research Agency (Cuc Nghien Cuu) - a subordinate component of the DRV armed forces General Staff under the Ministry of National Defense, is responsible for collecting and processing strategic intelligence, including foreign intelligence. It also controls tactical intelligence collection by the military intelligence units of the NVA in North and South Vietnam. It also interrogates prisoners of war for tactical and strategic intelligence (analogous to the GRU).

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- (c) The Security Directorate of the General Political Directorate in the Ministry of Defense (Cuc Bao Ve An Ninh) is responsible for security within North Vietnam's military establishment. It is primarily a counter-intelligence function in the armed forces and conducts continuous security checks on all military personnel including those assigned to the CNC.

2. Foreign intelligence - The responsibility for the collection of strategic intelligence beyond the borders of North and South Vietnam belongs to the Foreign Intelligence Office (Office 76) of the Research Agency (CNC). Office 76 is responsible for supervising and monitoring the assignment of CNC officers to foreign countries, briefing North Vietnamese diplomatic personnel and trade and cultural delegations on intelligence requirements and levies requirements for personnel to attend and monitor conferences held for the foreign visitors. The office is also responsible for the supervision of all military, political and intelligence advisors assigned to the Pathet Lao. It also participates with other CNC officers in the interrogation of American POWs in NVN.

(Note) - There is no information as to whether CNC personnel actually conduct espionage operations. The latter is the prerogative of Public Security personnel on foreign assignments. It may be that much of CNC activity abroad is devoted to the collection of intelligence information from overt sources. The MPS representative may also serve as intelligence advisor to the senior NVN official in the delegation or mission.



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